

The

RAILSPLITTER



Illinois National Guard

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Bilateral Embedded Staff Team A11 Soldiers mobilize



Photo by U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Cassidy L. Snyder, Illinois National Guard Public Affairs

Soldiers with the Bilateral Embedded Staff Team 11 stand at attention as the mobilization orders are read during the deployment ceremony at the Urbana National Guard Armory in Urbana, Feb. 4.

NIMS prepares Guardsmen for homeland defense missions

By Brig. Gen. Richard Hayes, Director of Joint Staff



We in the National Guard have a tremendous and important role in the defense of this nation here and abroad. Our unique dual mission serving both state and federal government makes our preparedness challenge that more important. Our first mission for the Illinois National Guard is to serve the citizens of Illinois. We must be prepared for significant manmade or natural disasters/incidents that occur within Illinois.

When state or local authorities call for our assistance, the governor will direct the Illinois National Guard Adjutant General to provide Defense Support to Civilian Agencies in the form of force packages (personnel, services and equipment), to render support to civil authorities. Due to the unique dual mission of the Illinois National Guard, we must be prepared to work with local emergency management agencies and civilian incident command structures when responding.

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Chinook unit deploys



Photo by U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Cassidy L. Snyder, Illinois National Guard Public Affairs

Maj. Clarence Pulcher, commander of Company B, 2nd Battalion, 238th General Support Aviation stands with his Soldiers during a deployment ceremony in Peoria, Jan. 25.

African-American Soldiers fought for their nation, rights

Story by Sgt. Jesse Houk
139th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

SPRINGFIELD – Illinois has a special connection to the African-American History Month celebration. After all, the Great Emancipator, President Abraham Lincoln, served in the Illinois Militia and began his political career in Illinois. With the support of like-minded people, he challenged public opinion and sparked a civil rights revolution still felt today. African-American Soldiers in Illinois played important roles in most major conflicts since the Civil War.

“African-Americans have overcome many obstacles within the military,” said Adriana Schroeder, the Illinois National Guard’s command historian. “The first obstacle was actually being able to pick up arms and fight. The second was to have black leadership within their all black units. The third struggle was integration into the military to where African-Americans fought alongside white Soldiers.”

The 29th U.S. Colored Infantry was formed during the Civil War to guard wagons.

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State CSM reflects on achievements of African-Americans in US history

African-American History Month is an annual celebration of achievements by African-Americans and a unique opportunity to recognize the roles of African-Americans in the United States military.

As we celebrate these achievements this month let us not forget those who left a rich history and a legacy that will never be forgotten.

In 2013 we will celebrate two significant events that changed the course of U.S. history for generations to come, the Emancipation Proclamation authored and signed by President Abraham Lincoln in 1863 and the march on



Command Sgt. Maj. Howard Robinson

Washington led by Dr Martin Luther King Jr. In 1963 both of these events were milestones in U.S. history and had a tremendous impact on future generations.

As I reflect on these two events and the opportunities it gave to African-Americans in the military from the Civil War to Operation Enduring Freedom to Camp Lincoln in Springfield. I applaud the efforts of those who continue to champion the cause for equality and desegregation in the military. From cooks to ammo bearers to truck drivers to commanding generals and command sergeants major, we have secured a place in history.

Although there has been much progress and historical achievements we must continue to tell the story and ensure future generations of every diverse background remember their history but never forget the history of African-Americans in America.

Hanging up their boots after 20+ years of service

- **Col. Thomas Purple**
Joint Force Headquarters
- **Lt. Col. Robert Barry**
183rd Fighter Wing
- **Lt. Col. Richard Dobson**
183rd Fighter Wing
- **Lt. Col. Petro Krafcisin**
183rd Fighter Wing
- **Lt. Col. Paul Luetkemeyer**
126th Air Refueling Wing
- **Lt. Col. Paul Young**
183rd Fighter Wing
- **Maj. Dustin Dulebohn**
HHC, 33rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team
- **Maj. Raymond Simons**
HHC, 33rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion
- **Command Sgt. Maj. Donald Higgs**
Recruiting and Retention Battalion
- **Chief Master Sgt. Dennis Seeley**
126th Air Refueling Wing
- **1st Sgt. Eric Brown**
Troop B, 2nd Squadron, 106th Cavalry
- **Sgt. 1st Class William Berens**
1244th Transportation Company
- **Sgt. 1st Class Kenneth Reiterman**
HHC, 33rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team
- **1st Sgt. Zachary Sarver**
Company C, 2nd Battalion, 130th Infantry
- **1st Sgt. Steven Waggoner**
135th Chemical Company
- **Spc. Joshua Bond**
Battery C, 2nd Battalion, 123rd Field Artillery
- **Chief Master Sgt. Jeff Baer**
183rd Fighter Wing
- **Chief Master Sgt. Francis Melchert**
217th Engineering Squadron, 183rd FW
- **Tech. Sgt. Wendy Vogel**
182nd Airlift Wing

BEST A11 commander shares his discoveries

By Col. Christopher Lawson, BEST A11 commander

Before our deployment team departs for Afghanistan with Bilateral Embedded Staff Team 11 and Task Force White Eagle, I wanted to share a few discoveries from the past 27 years in the Illinois National Guard. The world is a wonderful, magical, and dangerous place. The complexities and seemingly irresolvable dilemmas are mind-boggling in the 21st-century.

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244th ALT returns home



Photo by U.S. Army Capt. Dustin Cammack
Illinois National Guard Public Affairs

Sgt. Carlos Colon of Chicago, a member of the 244th Army Liaison Team, reunites with his family after returning home from Afghanistan at a welcome home ceremony at the North Riverside Armory Jan. 18.

2013 Prairie Minuteman Scholarship Announcement
For college bound dependents (spouses and children) of NGAI members
Apply at www.ngai.com
under the SERVICES tab
March 20, 2013 deadline

PHOTOS FROM THE FIELD

- 661st/662nd honored for deployment
- Soldiers overseas enjoy Chicago style pizza during Superbowl
- Sycamore unit holds open house
- Illinois Guard Soldiers attend Presidential Inaugural Ball in D.C.
- Recruiting and Retention Battalion changes responsibility



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DEADLINES

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